| 1 | H.661 |
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| 2 | Representatives Lippert of Hinesburg, Black of Essex, Cina of Burlington, |
| 3 | Cordes of Lincoln, Donahue of Northfield, Goldman of Rockingham, and |
| 4 | Houghton of Essex move that the bill be amended by striking out all after the |
| 5 | enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following: |
| 6 | * * * Continuing Education Units; Psychologists * * * |
| 7 | Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 3015 is amended to read: |
| 8 | § 3015. RENEWALS |
| 9 | (a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the |
| 10 | required fee. |
| 11 | * * * |
| 12 | (d) Continuing education units. |
| 13 | (1) As a condition of renewal, the Board may shall require that licensees |
| 14 | establish that they have satisfied continuing education requirements established |
| 15 | by Board rule and this subsection. |
| 16 | (2) Continuing education requirements shall include requiring one or |
| 17 | more continuing education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti- |
| 18 | oppressive practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report |
| 19 | recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required |
| 20 | pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural |

| 1 | competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care |
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| 2 | system. |
| 3 | (3) Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable |
| 4 | and accepted as live in-person training. |
| 5 | (4) Upon application, the Board may exempt from continuing education |
| 6 | requirements a licensee on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, if obtaining |
| 7 | continuing education credits would be impossible in practice or a significant |
| 8 | hardship for the licensee. |
| 9 | (5) If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health |
| 10 | professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one |
| 11 | mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education |
| 12 | units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the |
| 13 | licensee is licensed under this title. |
| 14 | * * * Continuing Education Units; Social Workers * * * |
| 15 | Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 3208 is amended to read: |
| 16 | § 3208. RENEWALS |
| 17 | * * * |
| 18 | (d) As a condition of renewal, a licensee shall complete continuing |
| 19 | education, approved by the Director by rule, during the preceding two-year |
| 20 | period. For purposes of this subsection, the Director may require, by rule, not |
| 21 | more than 20 hours of approved continuing social work education as a |

| 1 | condition of renewal. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall |
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| 2 | be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing education |
| 3 | requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing education units in |
| 4 | the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice, or in related |
| 5 | topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations from the Health Equity |
| 6 | Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, |
| 7 | Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in |
| 8 | Vermont's health care system. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other |
| 9 | mental health professions under this title, continuing education units completed |
| 10 | for one mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing |
| 11 | education units for the other mental health profession or professions for which |
| 12 | the licensee is licensed under this title. |
| 13 | * * * |
| 14 | * * * Continuing Education Units; Alcohol and Drug Abuse |
| 15 | Counselors * * * |
| 16 | Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 3238 is amended to read: |
| 17 | § 3238. BIENNIAL RENEWALS |
| 18 | (a) Licenses and certifications shall be renewed every two years on a |
| 19 | schedule set by the Office upon: |
| 20 | (1) payment Payment of the required fee; and. |

| (2) documentation <u>Documentation</u> that the applicant has completed at | |
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| least 40 hours of continuing education, approved by the Director. Synchronous | |
| virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and accepted as live | |
| in-person training. Continuing education requirements shall include requiring | |
| one or more continuing education units in the area of systematic oppression | |
| and anti-oppressive practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report | |
| recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required | |
| pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural | |
| competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care | |
| system. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health | |
| professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one | |
| mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education | |
| units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the | |
| licensee is licensed under this title. | |
| * * * | |
| * * * Continuing Education Units; Clinical Mental Health | |
| Counselors * * * | |
| Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. § 3269 is amended to read: | |
| § 3269. RENEWALS | |
| Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of required fees | |

and proof of such continuing education as the Board may require by rule and

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| 2 | shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing |
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| 3 | education requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing |
| 4 | education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive |
| 5 | practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations |
| 6 | from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts |
| 7 | and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural |
| 8 | humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care system. If the licensee is |
| 9 | licensed in one or more other mental health professions under this title, |
| 10 | continuing education units completed for one mental health profession shall |
| 11 | count toward the required continuing education units for the other mental |
| 12 | health profession or professions for which the licensee is licensed under this |
| 13 | <u>title</u> . |
| 14 | * * * Continuing Education Units; Marriage and Family |
| 15 | Therapists * * * |
| 16 | Sec. 5. 26 V.S.A. § 4040 is amended to read: |
| 17 | § 4040. RENEWALS |
| 18 | (a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the |
| 19 | required fee, provided the person applying for renewal has completed at least |
| 20 | 20 hours of continuing education, approved by the Board, during the preceding |
| 21 | two-year period. |
| | |

as required by this section. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits

| 1 | (1) The Board shall establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for |
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| 2 | continuing education credit. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits |
| 3 | shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing |
| 4 | education requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing |
| 5 | education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive |
| 6 | practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations |
| 7 | from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts |
| 8 | and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural |
| 9 | humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care system. |
| 10 | (2) The continuing education requirement shall not apply for the first |
| 11 | renewal period. <u>If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health</u> |
| 12 | professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one |
| 13 | mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education |
| 14 | units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the |
| 15 | licensee is licensed under this title. |
| 16 | * * * |
| 17 | * * * Continuing Education Units; Psychoanalysts * * * |
| 18 | Sec. 6. 26 V.S.A. § 4060 is amended to read: |
| 19 | § 4060. RENEWALS |
| 20 | (a) Certification shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the |
| 21 | required fee, provided the person applying for renewal completes at least 20 |

| 1 | hours of continuing education, approved by the Director, during the preceding |
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| 2 | two-year period. |
| 3 | (1) The Director, with the advice of the advisor appointees, shall |
| 4 | establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for continuing education credit. |
| 5 | Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and |
| 6 | accepted as live in-person training. Continuing education requirements shall |
| 7 | include requiring one or more continuing education units in the area of |
| 8 | systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice, or in related topic areas, |
| 9 | consistent with the report recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory |
| 10 | Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for |
| 11 | improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's |
| 12 | health care system. |
| 13 | (2) The education requirement shall not apply for the first renewal |
| 14 | period. <u>If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health</u> |
| 15 | professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one |
| 16 | mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education |
| 17 | units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the |
| 18 | licensee is licensed under this title. |
| 19 | * * * |

| 1 | * * * Continuing Education Units; Applied Behavior Analysists * * * |
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| 2 | Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. § 4925 is amended to read: |
| 3 | § 4925. RENEWALS |
| 4 | * * * |
| 5 | (c) As a condition of renewal, the Director may by rule require that a |
| 6 | licensee establish that he or she the licensee has completed continuing |
| 7 | education. |
| 8 | (1) The Director may accept proof of current certification from the |
| 9 | Behavior Analyst Certification Board as evidence of continuing competency if |
| 10 | the Director finds that the maintenance of such certification implies |
| 11 | appropriate continuing education consistent with this subsection and Board |
| 12 | <u>rule</u> . |
| 13 | (2) Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable |
| 14 | and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing education requirements |
| 15 | shall include requiring one or more continuing education units in the area of |
| 16 | systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice, or in related topic areas, |
| 17 | consistent with the report recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory |
| 18 | Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for |
| 19 | improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's |
| 20 | health care system. |

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| 1 | (3) If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health |
|----|---|
| 2 | professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one |
| 3 | mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education |
| 4 | units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the |
| 5 | licensee is licensed under this title. |
| 6 | * * * |
| 7 | * * * Mental Health Professional Licensure; Study * * * |
| 8 | Sec. 8. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE; STUDY |
| 9 | (a) Study. The Office of Professional Regulation shall conduct a study on: |
| 10 | (1) the possibility of streamlining the licensure of mental health |
| 11 | professionals practicing in the State, including a review of the feasibility of |
| 12 | creating one mental health professional license with endorsements for specific |
| 13 | mental health professions; |
| 14 | (2) whether additional regulation of supervisors for mental health |
| 15 | professionals in training is necessary, including a review of potential limits on |
| 16 | areas of mental health work a supervisor may supervise based on the |
| 17 | supervisor's own work experience and education, the rate or fee a supervisor |
| 18 | may charge for providing supervision, and the number of supervisees assigned |
| 19 | to one supervisor; and |
| 20 | (3) the barriers for individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or Persons of |
| 21 | Color (BIPOC), refugees and new Americans, LGBTQ individuals, individuals |

| 1 | with low income, individuals with disabilities, and those individuals with lived |
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| 2 | mental health and substance use experience entering mental health professions |
| 3 | regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation. |
| 4 | (b) Stakeholder input. The Director of the Office of Professional |
| 5 | Regulation shall seek the input and recommendations of the following |
| 6 | stakeholders in completing the study: |
| 7 | (1) representatives of each mental health care profession associated |
| 8 | with the Office of Professional Regulation, selected by their respective |
| 9 | licensing board or by the Director; |
| 10 | (2) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee; |
| 11 | (3) the Chair of the Health Equity Advisory Commission established |
| 12 | pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 252 or designee; |
| 13 | (4) representatives of mental health care professional organizations; |
| 14 | (5) representatives of health insurers; |
| 15 | (6) individuals in mental health care professions or seeking to enter |
| 16 | mental health care professions, selected by AALV, Inc., the Vermont |
| 17 | Commission on Native American Affairs, the Vermont Center for |
| 18 | Independent Living, and Outright Vermont; and |
| 19 | (7) other interested stakeholders, including individuals from diverse |
| 20 | backgrounds to represent the interests of communities of color and other |
| 21 | historically underrepresented populations in mental health care professions. |

| 1 | (c) Findings and recommendations. On or before December 15, 2024, the |
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| 2 | Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall provide the Office's |
| 3 | findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Health Care and |
| 4 | on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Health and |
| 5 | Welfare and on Government Operations. |
| 6 | * * * Mental Health Professional Supervisors Registry * * * |
| 7 | Sec. 9. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISORS; REGISTRY |
| 8 | The Office of Professional Regulation shall maintain a registry of mental |
| 9 | health professionals who are available to serve as supervisors for mental health |
| 10 | professionals in training. The registry shall begin upon passage and shall |
| 11 | contain a complete list by 2025. |
| 12 | * * * Effective Date * * * |
| 13 | Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE |
| 14 | This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022. |